



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

March 3, 2014

READ, READ, READ!

Principals, I know many of you have reading celebrations at your schools. If any of your teachers or media specialists are celebrating reading during Read Across America this week, please share the following IDOE video links found below to use as they wish to promote reading or to create some reading celebrations of their own. IDOE would love to post any of your reading celebrations on our website and FaceBook. Send your reading celebrations to Samantha Hart at hart@doe.in.gov

I just wanted to remind everyone to grab your hat and read with the [Cat in the Hat](#) and myself starting today for the 17th annual Read Across America Day. Click on my video and let me share more with you regarding "[Read Across America](#)"

The Seussical celebration will kick off a week of reading across the nation as NEA members gather students, parents, and community members together to share their love of reading and celebrate [Dr. Seuss Birthday](#).

* The ISTEP+ Applied Skills testing window opens today and continues through Friday, March 21, 2014. Schools may administer the ISTEP+ Applied Skills assessment on any/all days of the testing window. Questions may be directed to the Office of Student Assessment by calling 317-232-9050 or via email istep@doe.in.gov.

Standards Evaluation Public Feedback

Attached is the link for input on the preliminary draft of proposed standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics at <http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/standards/indiana-academic-standards-review-2014-evaluation-process>. These are in very rough format, much attention to K-12 articulation and overall architecture of the standards will follow the public comment period. So at this time, it is imperative that we hear from as many educators as possible, please take some time to provide feedback. We thank you in advance for the ideas that you will submit as you are the experts in this work.

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) released new guidance today to help school systems and educators interpret and understand the major laws and best practices protecting student privacy while using online educational services. ([press release](#))

The guidance summarizes the major requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

([FERPA](#)) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment ([PPRA](#)) that relate to these educational services, and urges schools and districts to go beyond compliance to follow best practices for outsourcing school functions using online educational services, including computer software, mobile applications and web-based tools.

The Department is issuing this guidance to answer questions from schools, districts and vendors about how student data can and should be used, what steps are necessary to protect students' privacy, and how to prevent the misuse, abuse and commercialization of students' information. The guidance addresses a range of concerns regarding the security and privacy of student data. For example: *"What does FERPA require if personally identifiable information from students' education records is disclosed to a provider?"* and, *"Do FERPA and PPRA limit what providers can do with the student information they collect or receive?"* Click [here](#) for Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan's speech regarding student data privacy. For further information go to <http://ptac.ed.gov/>.

MEMORANDUM: High School Students Encouraged to Enter Congressional STEM Competition, The Office of Congresswoman Susan W. Brooks (R-IN5) encourages 5th District students to participate in the 2014 Congressional STEM Competition. The competition challenges students to develop a software application or "app" for mobile, tablet or computer devices. The winning app from each district will be featured on the U.S. House of Representatives website at www.House.gov.

The House App Contest is open to all high school students who live in or attend a high school located in **the 5th District**. Participants may compete individually, but groups of up to four students may submit entries. If submitting as a group, at least two students must be from the 5th District. Homeschooled students may participate as well. All students must register through Congresswoman Brooks' [website](#) and must also submit their app on www.challengepost.com. The contest is open now and **will close April 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m.**

MEMORANDUM: Indiana Congressmen, 3rd (Stutzman), 4th (Rokita), 5th (Brooks) and 8th (Bucshon) Districts sponsor STEM App. Contest. ([see district map](#)) US House of Representatives is sponsoring a contest designed to encourage science, technology, education, engineering and math (STEM) education by challenging high school students around the country to create smart phone applications.

The 2014 House of Representatives Student App Challenge is a great opportunity for students to showcase their technical and creative abilities. This competition challenges students to create a tablet and mobile App utilizing any commonly available platform between now and April 30, 2014. Students can create their App either individually or in groups. **The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2014.**

To enter, the student must create an account on <http://challengepost.com/> and then register for the [House Student App Contest](#) under their participating Member of Congress' profile during the Competition Submission Period. All entries must be an original in concept, design and execution.

1. [Register for the House Student App Challenge](#)
2. Register at <http://www.challengepost.com>

MEMORANDUM: Girls in STEM: On Wednesday, March 19, the [Indiana Girls Collaborative Project](#) will host a conference for education stakeholders and leaders to enhance the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering, and math. The conference will feature guest speakers Superintendent Glenda Ritz and Congresswoman Susan Brooks. In addition to our guest speakers we

will have breakout sessions designed around three pillars, promote gender equity, collaboration and sustainability, and resources for K-12 educators, counselors and out of school providers. \$1000 Mini-grants are available to organizations that collaborate in the development and delivery of programming that focus on STEM projects. The grant window for these mini-grants will open at the conference. To register or learn more about this Project,

visit: <http://tinyurl.com/CollaborativeConference> If you have any

Questions: indianagirlscollaborative@gmail.com pcrouch@indiana.edu

MEMORANDUM: Indiana Summit on Out of School Learning March 17-18, 2013 JW Marriott, 10 South West Street, Indianapolis. This 2-day Summit, hosted by the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Afterschool Network, brings together more than 750 staff and leaders from youth programs, schools, universities, businesses and foundations to connect, learn, and share best practices on **afterschool and summer learning**. The year's theme, *I AM Indiana Afterschool* features more than 50 hands-on, engaging workshops, the latest in innovative curriculum and learning, exciting keynote speakers, networking events, exhibitors, and more! Registration:

\$60 www.indianaafterschool.org For further information contact Debbie Zipes,

President dzipes@indianaafterschool.org

MEMORANDUM: Green Ribbon Schools Award: On February 1, 2014, the Indiana Department of Education nominated two schools for the United States Education Department's [Green Ribbon Schools Award](#). We would like to congratulate the two nominees to represent our state at the national level review of Green Ribbon Schools: Carmel High School, and St. Thomas Aquinas School. (see Green Ribbon memo) Both schools went through a rigorous application process and state level screening before being sent on to the national review being done by a multi-agency committee lead by the US Education Department. Carmel High School and St. Thomas Aquinas will hear whether they will receive the award by the end of April.

If you would like to consider applying for the award during the next cycle, fall 2014, please go to the IDOE's Green Ribbon Schools page: <http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/curriculum/green-ribbon-schools>

MEMORANDUM: National Council for State Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Indiana is the first state in the country to join an interstate initiative designed to ensure academic quality and increase affordability for Hoosier students who complete online courses offered by colleges in other states. Launched by the National Council for State Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), the initiative will streamline the regulatory process required for colleges to enroll college students across state lines. Implementing instructional models that provide Indiana students with greater flexibility and accelerated degree completion without sacrificing academic quality is a key strategy in the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's "Reaching Higher, Achieving More" strategic plan. Learn about the Commission and its strategic priorities to increase college completion at www.che.in.gov. Learn about the National Council for State Reciprocity Agreements at www.wiche.edu/sara.

MEMORANDUM: State helps 21st Century Scholars transition from college to careers:

College students enrolled in Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program came together from across the state on the campus of Ball State University this month for the inaugural Next Steps College Conference.

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars is a needs- and performance-based promise program that provides students the opportunity to earn up to a four-year scholarship at an Indiana college or university. Hoosier students who meet income criteria can enroll during their 7th- or 8th-grade year of middle school. Students commit to maintaining academic success, remaining drug and alcohol free, and

completing college-preparation activities that keep them on track for graduation. Learn more at Scholars.IN.gov or LearnMoreIndiana.org. Contact: Amber Audrain at (317) 464-4404 ext. 139 or AAudrain@che.in.gov

MEMORANDUM: IDOE's School-based Medicaid, in April 2014, IDOE will offer - in 3 different regional locations - a free half-day seminar for school districts interested/involved in federal funds recovery through school-based Medicaid claiming. Online registration is now available at IDOE's School-based Medicaid Web page: <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/school-based-medicaid>.

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has a new tool to help schools identify which students have filed the FAFSA. The preliminary report identifies, in alphabetical order, what percentage of students at each high school across the State of Indiana have filed. Please review the [attached list](#) and direct any questions or requests to awards@che.gov. An updated report will be available after the FAFSA March 10 deadline. If you have any questions contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign Manager at audrain@che.in.gov or 317-464-4400 ext. 139 ([attached list](#))

MEMORANDUM: The FAFSA filing deadline is March 10. Completing the FAFSA is a crucial step in students' accessing financial aid for college. Over 1 billion in financial aid is available. The FAFSA webinar is now available at fafsafriday.org as a video! This is a great tool to help students and parents get their questions answered as they complete this critical application. If you have any questions contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign Manager at audrain@che.in.gov or 317-464-4400 ext. 139

MEMORANDUM: Special Education Assessment Transition - Modified Assessment, Federal policy initiatives require that states transition away from the use of an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards (AA-MAS). The final administration of Indiana's AA-MAS, known as the *Indiana Modified Achievement Standards Test*, or *IMAST*, will take place this spring (April 28 - May 7, 2014). Students currently participating in IMAST will participate in the state's general assessment beginning in 2014-15.

The Office of Special Education and the Office of Student Assessment are currently compiling resources to assist administrators, teachers, and students prepare for this transition. Over the next few weeks, a recorded WebEx and other resources will be disseminated and provide information on supporting current IMAST students in demonstrating their knowledge, skills, and abilities in new ways. Watch for details on the Learning Connection and in the *DOE Dialogue*. ([see memo](#))

Information From Other Agencies

Cash for College Contest: Learn More Indiana will pick the best poster or essay for each grade across the state and award the winning students with \$529 in a College Choice 529 Savings Plan. Find the entry forms [here](#) and enter by March 10, 2014. ([Cash for College contest](#)) Increase your students' financial aid literacy? Tell Learn More how! High schools across the state of Indiana can apply for our [Cash for College Challenge Grant](#) and three will be chosen to win \$1000 for college and career programming in the 2014-2015 school year. Find the grant application here and submit by April 10, 2014. Download our grant application [here](#) (MS Word), and email the completed and signed form to contests@learnmore.org by April 10, 2014. [Please see the grant application for more details](#)

If you have any questions contact Amber Audrain, the College Success Campaign Manager at audrain@che.in.gov or 317-464-4400 ext. 139

Indiana Youth Leadership Forum (IN-YLF): Do you know someone who is 16-21 years old and an 11th or 12th grader with a disability and possesses leadership qualities? If you answered yes to these questions, let them know about the exciting opportunity to participate in the Indiana Youth Leadership Forum (IN-YLF) from July 21st - 25th 2014 on the IUPUI campus in downtown Indianapolis.

The goal of the INIn-YLF is to prepare Indiana students with disabilities to achieve their short and long-term post secondary education and career goals. Throughout the week the student delegates will participate in workshops, develop a personal leadership plan, meet other aspiring students, be assigned a mentor and have a load of fun! If you are interested in applying as a student delegate or volunteering to help out at the forum, please go to <http://www.inylf.org> or contact Erin McAloon at 1-800-609-8449 x67 or erin@inautism.org.

Nick Vujcic, founder and President of [Life Without Limbs](#) and "Attitude is Altitude", is coming to Indiana this fall September 10th, 11th, and 12th to speak with high school students about bullying and other issues that impact their lives. Born without arms or legs, Nick's message of hope and victory is one that will resonate with both students and staff alike. Special live webcasts will be available to Indiana high schools during these three days. For more information contact Brad Henderson bhenderson@ninestarconnect.com or 317-232-2741

Central Indiana Educational Services, (CIESC) offers a variety of professional learning workshops, to view these events visit www.ciesc.k12.in.us, view events calendar on right side bar or click on Services, then Professional Learning.

MARCH

- Thinking Maps Workshop March 17, 2014 8:30 - 3:30 Click [HERE](#) Thinking Maps™ provide a strategic approach for building a common language for learning within and across disciplines through visual patterns.

Legislative Updates

Please find attached a [list of education](#) bills that are still alive during the second half of the legislative session. The [IDOE Facebook](#) and [Twitter pages](#) will continue to be updated throughout the legislative process.